

THE CAPTURE OF NORFOLK.

CONTINUED FROM THIRD PAGE.

The work was evaded. The Zouave was stopped, and a boat lowered, in which Captain Case, Paymaster Thornton, the editor of the *Herald* went on shore. Master's Mate Henry Roney, of the Zouave, had charge of the boat. As the boat approached the shore a negro man, with a dog following him, came out of the fort and down the beach to meet it. The negro apparently felt happy to see us, as he laughed quite heartily and made sunny greetings with his hands and feet, understood in negro life as signs of joy. This was quite communicative, wished our party good morning and directed the way to the entrance to the fort. Capt. Case landed first, followed by Paymaster Thornton and others. The Captain, after entering the rebel fort, proceeded to the first flagstaff, on which the rebel flag floated, and with his own hands lowered the rebel ensign, and in its stead raised a new American flag. This was done at ten o'clock A. M. Our fleet had then advanced a point directly opposite Craney Island. As the old flag floated to the breeze, the sailors on the fleet sang up and down the beach, and finished off with a *U. S. A. R.* The party then proceeded to the second flagstaff, where Paymaster Thornton had the pleasure of lowering the rebel flag.

A cursory examination of the fortifications was made. They are of a polygonal shape, extending over an area of about fifty acres, with outworks and redans, adapted to command all the approaches, water and channel approaches. The works were twelve feet thick and from fifteen to twenty feet in height, and revetted or coated outside with green mud. The main portion of the work was casemated, over which was a bombproof roof. In it were eight nine-inch columbiads. The parapet guns numbered thirty-nine, of superior calibre, besides one limitation one hundred-pounder rifled gun. In the interior of the fort were large piles of solid shot and fixed ammunition, and in the magazine five thousand pounds of powder. There are numerous well constructed wooden cabins, systematically arranged and capacious enough to quarter a garrison of fifteen hundred men. The rebel occupants, wherever they were, were scrupulously clean, as the quarters were as fresh and as comfortable as any of our own. The enemy had moved all their available personal effects therefrom; a few old muskets and swords were all the small arms left behind. We then got ready to return on board the Zouave. Before leaving Captain Case ordered Master's Mate Roney and two sailors to remain and garrison the fort until our troops should arrive. A rather small garrison for a fort mounting over forty guns. There were several large guns not mounted on the north end of the fort. The contraband negro who met us on the beach was ordered to get into the small boat, and when the whole had embarked we pushed for the Zouave, which was about one-fourth of a mile distant. After we got on board I cross-examined the negro as to what he knew of the retreat of the rebels. He said he was a body servant of one of the officers of a Louisiana regiment. He was owned by a man named R. Warren, residing near Richmond. He said the rebels retreated from Craney Island on Saturday night, taking with them their arms and equipments. They took the route towards Suffolk. It appears that after they left Craney Island and proceeded a few miles they got panic-stricken, as the darky said, by "a jacks" resting in the bushes," got up on a run as they moved, throwing away their arms, clothing and equipments. The woods for three miles and more were strewn with these things. The negro said when the news of the capture of New Orleans was reported to the rebels the Louisianians said it "was all a hoax; the damned Yankees would never enter their city alive." When the news of the capture of Yorktown was announced, a depressed spirit came over every rebel soldier, from the officers down to the privates, and they could neither eat, drink nor sleep as they formerly did, for the fear that the Yankees might pay them a sudden visit.

ANOTHER MOVE UP THE RIVER.

As we moved up the river from Craney Island, immense quantities of driftwood from the Merrimac were passed. Some of it was blown to splinters by the explosion. During our detention at Craney Island the other vessels of the fleet passed us. Our attention was next attracted to obstructions in the river, in the shape of a network of spiles reaching across, with only a single opening wide enough for one ship to pass at a time. The spile-driving machines, one of which was operated by steam, were still there, which showed that the rebels had not completed their work. The San Jacinto ran on a number of submerged spiles, and, the tide falling at the time, she remained there for several hours. At this time the naval transport boat Baltimore approached us from the direction of Hampton Roads. In a few minutes she overtook the Zouave. The Baltimore had on board President Lincoln, Secretary Stanton, General Wool and Flag Officer Goldsborough, and their special friends. The Flag Officer hailed the Zouave, and inquired if the driftwood in the river was portions of the Merrimac. He received an affirmative reply, and ordered some of it to be secured for the President.

PORT AT LOWRY'S POINT.

While the Zouave was temporarily detained I looked over to the west side of the river to Lowry's Point, and there was plainly visible another splendid rebel fortification. It was a simple curtain wall, revetted with green mud, and mounting six guns; around its sides were splintered blades of cane, and in the interior of the work was a Gothic cottage. The land on which the fort was erected was no doubt formerly the country residence of some of the Virginia nabobs.

OTHER FORTIFICATIONS.

Opposite Lowry's Point, and near the mouth of the western branch of the Elizabeth river, was another fort designed for fourteen guns. It has a single parallel earth work. On the other point of the mouth of the western branch was a lunette, bombproof and casemated work, revetted with green mud and mounting twelve guns. This was a superior work, and displays the great tact and skill of its designer. On Hospital Point, near the United States Naval Hospital at Portsmouth, was another huge open fortification, pierced for twelve guns. This, like the others, was covered with grass awnings. Directly opposite this, on the Norfolk side, is old Fort Norfolk. This has six large barbette guns mounted, and several smaller guns in the auxiliary works attached to the main work. All the guns were spiked before the rebels retreated. It is supposed that our troops in guns, including those found on the field works on the land side of the city, will not fall many short of three hundred pieces.

ARRIVAL OF THE PRESIDENT AT NORFOLK.

The President and party arrived at Norfolk shortly before noon. He did not go on shore, but took a quiet survey of the city, Portsmouth and vicinity. The gunboats Zouave ran alongside of the Baltimore, and Captain Case went on board with the two rebel flags taken from Craney Island under his arm. With the trophies under his arm Captain Case approached the President and presented them to him in behalf of Flag Officer Goldsborough. The President returned thanks.

TROOPS SENT TO GARDENERS CREEK.

Flag Officer Goldsborough left the Presidential party on their arrival at Norfolk, and proceeded, in company with General Wool, to visit the frigate *Saguenay*. On their arrival on board that vessel the marine guard, in full uniform, was paraded on the quarter deck, the ship's band playing the air of "Hail to the Chief." The Flag Officer then placed the gunboat Mount Vernon under the disposal of General Wool to transport troops to Craney Island. She was sent to the Navy Yard, where a portion of the First Delaware regiment was embarked, on route for their destination. Brigadier General Vile, however, had anticipated them by sending a detachment of the Tenth New York regiment there.

THE MERRIMAC'S SINKING.

Many of the rebels in Norfolk insisted that the Merrimac was not blown up, but had gone up the James river the night previous. To put all such surmises at rest, Flag Officer Goldsborough ordered Lieutenant Selfridge, of the Minnesota, to investigate the matter, and report to him forthwith. That officer, with your correspondent, then proceeded to a point on the south end of Craney Island and examined the place where the Merrimac was reported to have exploded. There were various methods used to sound the bottom in the locality. A long pole thrust in the water struck upon a hard substance, which proved to be the plates of the armor of the Merrimac. The driftwood of the wreck was examined, and the most conclusive evidence was obtained of the destruction of the rebel monster. This matter was reported to the Flag Officer.

At four o'clock this afternoon our fleet, consisting of the frigates San Jacinto and Saguenay, the sloops Schoonmaker and Duane, and the Mount Vernon, were engaged in a battle of the city, with the iron buildings keeping watch over it.

Our victory was complete; the plan well executed,

and the army and naval forces engaged in it deserve well of the country.

General Wool's Official Report.

WASHINGTON, May 12, 1862.

The following has been received at the War Department—

FORTRESS MONROE, May 12, 1862.

To Hon. E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War—

On Friday afternoon, the 9th of May, I organized a force to march against Norfolk. On Saturday morning, the 10th of May, the troops were landed, under the direction of Colonel Crane, at Ocean View, and commenced the march towards General Mansfield and Weber, who had preceded on the direct route by the way of Tanner's creek bridge; but, finding it on fire, they returned to the crossroads, where I joined them and took the direction of the column. I arrived by the old road, and entered the intrenchments in front of the city at twenty minutes before five P. M.

I immediately proceeded towards Norfolk, accompanied by the Hon. Secretary Chase, and met a select committee of the Common Council of Norfolk at the limits of the city, when they surrendered the city, agreeably to the terms set forth in the resolutions of the Common Council, presented by the Mayor, W. W. Lamb, which were accepted by me so far as related to the civil rights of the citizens. A copy of the resolutions has been already furnished you. I immediately took possession of the city, and appointed Brigadier General Robert L. Vile Military Governor of Norfolk, with directions to see that the citizens were protected in all their civil rights. Soon after I took possession of Gosport and Portsmouth.

The taking of Norfolk caused the destruction of the iron-clad steamer Merrimac, which was blown up by the rebels about five o'clock on the morning of the 11th of May, which was soon after communicated to you and the President of the United States.

On the 11th, I visited the Navy Yard and found all the workshops, storehouses and other buildings in ruins, having been set on fire by the rebels, who at the same time partially blew up the dry dock. I also visited Craney Island, where I found thirty-nine guns of large calibre, most of which were spiked; also a large number of shot and shell, with about five thousand pounds of powder, all of which, with the buildings, were in good order. As far as I have been able to ascertain, we have taken about two hundred cannon, including those at Sewall's Point batteries, with a large number of shot and shell, as well as many other articles of value stationed at the Navy Yard, Craney Island, Sewall's Point and other places.

JOHN E. WOOL,

Major General Commanding.

THE LATEST.

BATIMORE, May 12, 1862.

I left Norfolk last evening. Everything was perfectly quiet.

The Merrimac is certainly destroyed, as pieces of the wreck are found floating about, and her officers and crew went to Suffolk early yesterday morning.

All the fortifications at Craney Island, Sewall's Point, &c., are abandoned.

Our fleet, led by the Monitor, went to Norfolk yesterday, and the Naugatuck returned to Old Point. The Navy Yard was almost entirely destroyed. The ship buildings, smithshops and all public establishments were fired on Saturday afternoon and night.

A strong Union feeling was shown at Portsmouth.

In Norfolk the people were disappointed and mortified by the abandonment of their troops. It was generally conceded there that Richmond would be taken by our army without serious opposition, and that Virginia is abandoned by the confederacy.

Trade with the North is greatly needed at Norfolk.

General McClellan this morning is within twenty miles of Richmond.

Nothing definite had been heard from the Galena and the gunboats on the James river. One of the latter was reported lost.

The President and Secretaries Chase and Stanton returned to Washington last evening, after visiting Norfolk.

General Wool returned to Fortress Monroe last evening.

As we passed Craney Island we found this immense fortress apparently abandoned, though three rebel flags were flying from very tall masts in different parts of the works. Captain Case, whose within half a mile of the shore, ordered a shot to be fired to test the fact of evacuation. The only sign of life that the shot produced was the appearance on the shore of two negro men. A boat was immediately lowered, and through the courteous attention of the commandant I accompanied it to the shore, to participate in the honor of lowering the rebel emblem and substituting the "Pride of America" in its place.

Commander Case was the first loyal man that pressed his foot on the soil of this treacherous stronghold. Without thought of torpedoes or infernal machines, the gallant commandant rushed to the flagstaff and halliards, and, being in good order, the "Old Flag" was soon given to the breeze.

The fort on the island are in four or five separate sections. They are constructed with the best engineering skill and most admirable workmanship.

The fort was left in excellent condition, as were also the casemate batteries which had accommodated during the winter a garrison of over two thousand men.

Forty heavy guns were mounted in different parts of the works on the main front of the island, the works comprising the approaches to the channel of the river. Nine of these casemates were finished, in each of which were nine or ten inch Dahlgrens, and the work of erecting five more casemates was in progress at the time of the evacuation, in one of which a gun was mounted.

The fort at the head of the island was called the "Citadel." It was not casemated, but mounted five heavy guns. The whole number of guns mounted was thirty-nine, of which two were Parrotts and a number rifled Dahlgrens. There were also about six guns in the works which had been mounted.

After spending an hour on the island we proceeded to Norfolk.

Immediately at the upper end of the island we found a mass of blackened wreck floating on the water, some of it proceeding from the sunken portions of vessels. We had also passed large quantities of floating timber on our way up, all of which had been torn into splinters.

From the men found on the island we ascertained that the Merrimac had laid during Saturday at a point nearly a mile below the position from which the fragments were observed. During the night, however, she had been brought back and run ashore. Her entire officers and crew were landed on the island, and a slow match applied to her magazine.

She was torn to fragments by the time the crew were out of reach of her. Negroes state that the officers and crew passed through the adjoining country, on the mainland, about eight o'clock in the morning, to the number of two hundred. They said they were on their way to Suffolk.

On the line of the river leading from Craney Island to Norfolk there are not less than six heavy earthworks, mounting in all about sixty-nine cannon, all of which are still in position, except those near the Naval Hospital. These are said to have been taken to Richmond during the past week.

On the opposite bank of the river is another battery, with two or three other small works.

On all the works the rebel flag has been lowered by the fleet and the "Stars and Stripes" substituted.

The amount of powder found in the magazines is estimated at 5,000 pounds, and the fixed ammunition taken can only be enumerated by the cargo.

After cruising about for some time among the fleet we landed at the wharf and took a stroll through the city of Norfolk.

It being Sunday, of course all places of business were closed, and the city presented a most quiet aspect. The wharves were crowded with blacks, male and female, and a goodly number of white working people, with their wives and children, were strolling about. Soldiers were stationed on the wharves and picked through the city, while the flag of the Union floated triumphantly from the cupola of the Custom House.

The houses throughout the city were generally closed, especially those of the wealthier classes.

Some of the females scolded at the horrible Yankees, and some almost attempted to spit upon them. But their countenances indicated a desire to wait and watch for further developments.

The secessionists talked boldly of the Southern confederacy, declaring their intention to receive nothing but Confederate money, and saying they would have nothing to do with Lincoln shipbuilders. They were fully confident that in twenty days Norfolk would be repossessed and the Yankees driven out.

The President laid off in the steamer Baltimore for about an hour, in front of the city, and then steamed back to the fortress. Secretary Chase returned with him, while Secretary Stanton remained until a late hour in consultation with the military Governor, General Vile, and General Wool.

True to the spirit of secession, the fire, as anticipated, on Saturday, and which threw a broad red glare across the heavens on Saturday night, proceeded from the destruction of the Portsmouth Navy Yard, which was done by order of the rebel commandant, secretly anything being left but tall black walls and tall chimneys. Even the immense stone dry dock was seriously damaged, and it is said the engine and pump belonging to it were removed to Richmond.

Norfolk Before Its Capture.

Late Norfolk papers have been received; but they contain no news of special importance in relation to the condition of things in that city further than what we have already published.

THE PROPERTY OF CITIZENS TO BE PLACED AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE REBEL LEADERS—TEMPERARY ORDER.

[From the Norfolk Day Book, May 7, 1862.]

DISTRICT OF NORFOLK, May 7, 1862.

All cotton, tobacco, spirits of turpentine and oil, in this district, will be sent to such point as the railroad agent may direct, by five o'clock to-day, and a return made to the same, so that transportation may be immediately secured.

These articles not so delivered will be confiscated, and parties who have concealed them or committed their conveyance to any secret place of deposit will be arrested and summarily punished. W. A. FARRAM, Provost Marshal.

TRYING TO KEEP THEIR SPIRITS UP UNDER SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES.

What a rebel citizen of Norfolk can want with the work mentioned below, at this particular time, passes our comprehension. If a joke was intended, however, it was a good one—

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Our esteemed friend, Isaac Harris, Esq., was made the recipient yesterday of a handsome present, in the shape of two splendidly bound and richly embellished volumes, bearing the title, "Jefferson's Opinions on War and Slavery." These books were the offering of Francis Marion Davies, Esq., the erudite scholar, polished gentleman and statesman, who presented them in a neat and appropriate address, which was suitably responded to by Mr. Harris.

FINE ART EXHIBITIONS IN NORFOLK.

W. C. Tarrant has been exhibiting a "Grand Dioramic Exhibition of the Russian War" in Norfolk. His advertisement in the *Day Book* is professed with the following, intended to tickle the rebel ear—

The righteous shall conquer and the oppressed shall be strengthened. This was verified in the Turkish war.

The same advertisement announces—

FORT SUTHER TO-NIGHT.

None should lose an opportunity of witnessing those excellent illustrations, in which the language of the sword is as powerful as that of the pen, and note the cost.

If the "powerful autocrat" refers to President Lincoln, it is needless to say that the italicized portion is hardly borne out by the history of the times, especially in Norfolk and vicinity.

TERRIBLE FIRE ON LONG ISLAND.

Over Sixty Thousand Square Acres of Wood Burned Over.

TWENTY OR THIRTY HOUSES DESTROYED.

Serious Loss of Cows, Sheep, Swine, Horses and Other Cattle.

&c., &c., &c.

One of the most destructive fires that ever visited Long Island has been raging for the past four days, and has destroyed a large amount of property. The fire broke out near Stony Brook on Friday last, and was caused by the burning off of a lot on the farm of Mr. Joel L. G. Smith.

It appears Mr. Smith had ploughed round the lot several times for the purpose of preventing the flames from reaching the woods, which were but a short distance off. The high winds of Friday evening, however, blew some sparks from the burning lot into the adjacent woods, which immediately took fire, and continued burning until yesterday afternoon, destroying everything before it from Smithtown branch to Coram from Coram to Yaphank, from Yaphank to Bellport, and from Bellport to Fireplace. It is also rumored that the village of Fireplace is completely burned down, and that the greater portion of Patchogue had also fallen a victim to the flames. The destruction of timber is immense. It is said that not less than forty miles of woods have been burned to the ground. We understand that many families have been left homeless and penniless by this conflagration. The destruction of property is estimated by some at about two millions of dollars.

The inhabitants turned out and worked incessantly until last evening, when the wind lulled, and they gained the mastery. About the same time another fire broke out in the woods a short distance east and north of the Fireplace, which extended to Islip, covering an area of ten miles in length and four miles in width, destroying everything in the way of its wild march, including the homes and stock of the working class, also horses, cattle, pigs, fencing timber, &c. This fire was subdued after a severe battle of twenty-four hours. In both these cases some thirty or more barns, seventeen or eighteen dwelling houses, large and small, and much stock were consumed which several hundred thousand dollars cannot replace.

Mr. Owens of Bellport is also a heavy loser by this fire, having lost all his property, amounting to nearly one hundred thousand dollars. So rapid was the fire in its destructive course that it was with difficulty Mr. Owens saved his family from its ravages.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT OF THE CONFLAGRATION.

On Friday last while some men were engaged in burning brushwood on the land of Joel L. G. Smith, Esq., in the northern part of the town of Smithtown in Suffolk county, the fire escaped and communicated to the adjoining woods, when, owing to the high state of the wind, which was blowing from the northwest, it raged with terrific violence during that night and the following day, spreading over an area of at least thirty thousand square acres, principally in the town of Brook Haven.

At intervals, when the wind was strongest, it leaped from tree to tree, twining its forked tongues with lightning rapidly around their trunks and away to top, licking up beneath them the dry, parched leaves and underbrush like tinder, scattering them, as the wind in fitful and angry gusts whirled them high in the air, far ahead, where, falling and again falling into flames, new fires leaped forth to add additional fury and violence to the irresistible power of the terrible monster, which mainly roared and thundered in the rear. With the rapidity of the race horse it sped swiftly on from hill to valley, driving before it the frightened animals, till overcome and exhausted they fell and became a prey to the destroyer.

As it swept on through the long extended line of woodland which lie on either side of the main road through the island, it skirted the villages of Stony Brook, Setauket, Port Jefferson, Mount Sinai and Miller's Place, on the North; New Village, Selden, Coram, Middle Island and Manorville in the middle, and Patchogue, Bellport, Fireplace, Mastic, Moriches and Quogue on the south. It passed some little distance from the villages of the north, while in the centre it came so near as to endanger dwellings and human lives, destroying the fences around the farms, and communicating with the farm yards, which had destroyed the buildings had there not been sufficient help to promptly subdue it.

On the south side they suffered more severely than in the middle. At the village of Mastic it swept down to the shores of the Great South Bay, where many barns and other outbuildings were destroyed. At Manorville several dwellings were destroyed, and it is said that several lives were lost by those attempting to arrest its progress and save their property.

There can be no doubt that large numbers of cattle and tens of thousands of cords of wood, piled up in the woods and on the line of the railroad, have been destroyed.

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The Mississippi Naval Triumph.

Additional Particulars of the Brilliant Victory near Fort Wright.

CAIRO, May 11, 1862.

A desperate naval battle took place near Fort Wright early yesterday morning. The rebel gunboats, eight in number, attacked the federal fleet at their moorings. The engagement lasted one hour and twenty minutes. The new rebel iron-clad boat Malory was run down by the St. Louis and sunk. Two rebel boats were blown up by the explosion of their shells in their magazines. The rebel fleet withdrew their remaining boats badly shattered.

Our fleet came out of action unhurt. Every boat is now reported ready for duty.

Captain Stembel of the Cincinnati, was wounded by a musket ball in the shoulder. Two other slight casualties occurred on our side. The enemy's loss is very large—probably three or four hundred killed and wounded, the majority killed.

The Union fleet was commanded by Captain Davis, the new fleet captain, Commodore Fiske having gone home on a sick leave. The Union boats engaged were the Benton, Cincinnati, Carondelet, Cairo, St. Louis and the wooden boat Conestoga. The rebel ram Louisiana attempted to run the Cincinnati down, but was repulsed. The rebel battery Malory attempted the same game, and was herself sunk by the St. Louis.

The rebel fleet was commanded by Hollins.

CAIRO, May 11, 1862.

The desperation of the rebel cause in the Mississippi culminated yesterday in an attack on the flotilla.

Early on Saturday morning eight of their gunboats came round the point above the fort and boldly attacked our fleet.

The Cincinnati, which was stationed at the point where the rebels came up to on Friday, did not attract them until the fleet had passed above.